

Bhishm Sahani

P.G. Semester IV

EC II

Unit III

Dr. Md. Shahnawaz Alam

Assistant Professor (Guest Faculty)

P.G. Department of English

Maharaja College, Arrah

Sahni was a prominent figure in the Nayi Kahani (New Story) movement. Unlike the romanticized literature of previous eras, his work was rooted in Marxist aesthetics and humanism.

Objectivity: He wrote with a "clinical empathy." He didn't preach; he showed the anatomy of prejudice and poverty.

The Common Man: His protagonists aren't heroes; they are clerks, refugees, and disillusioned neighbors navigating a changing India.

If you are studying Sahni, Tamas is the focal point. Published in 1973, it won the Sahitya Akademi Award.

Bhishm Sahani
P.G. Semester IV

EC II

Unit III

Dr. Md. Shahnawaz Alam

Assistant Professor (Guest Faculty)

P.G. Department of English

Maharaja College, Arrah

Theme: It depicts the five days leading up to the Partition in a small town.

The "Tragedy of the Innocent": Sahni argues that communal riots are often orchestrated by political elites, while the common man—who shares a culture with his "enemy"—ends up as both the perpetrator and the victim.

Symbolism: The "darkness" isn't just the lack of light, but the temporary eclipse of human reason.

Major Works & Contributions

Beyond Tamas, his body of work covers a vast spectrum of the Indian experience:

Novels :- Jharokhe, Basanti, Mayyadas Ki Mari , Institutional decay, urban poverty, and feudal history.

Plays :- Hanush, Kabira Khada Bazar Mein, Intellectual freedom vs. State power; religious hypocrisy.

Short Stories :- Chief Ki Dawat (The Chief's Party) , The hollow aspirations of the middle class and the neglect of the elderly.

Dr. Md. Shah Nawaz Alam